

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEAN, EGEN

SUBJECT: US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL - POSSIBLE NEW YORK PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 179553 (B) MANILA 11714 (C) STATE 180454

1. WE URGENTLY NEED SOME INDICATION ON ASEAN PREFERENCES
AND PROPOSED PARTICIPATION IN A PROGRAM IN NEW YORK AS
DISCUSSED IN REFTELS. INVITATIONS MUST GET OUT VERY SHORTLY
TO TRY TO LINE UP AN APPROPRIATE AUDIENCE BEFORE THEY MAKE
OTHER COMMITMENTS.

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2. THE ASIA SOCIETY, THE AMERICAN-ASEAN TRADE COUNCIL (THE
CORRECT NAME FOR WHAT WE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS THE
US-ASEAN TRADE COUNCIL), AND THE FAR EAST AMERICAN TRADE
COUNCIL WOULD NOW PREFER TO COOPERATE IN SPONSORING A JOINT
AFFAIR ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 8. THEY SUGGEST A LUNCHEON
FOLLOWED BY AN EXTENDED QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION BREAKING
UP AT ABOUT 3:30 OR 4:00. THE GROUPS WOULD THEN ADJOURN TO

THE ASIA HOUSE FOR AN INFORMAL RECEPTION. THEY ARE PREPARED TO DO THIS, OR A SOMEWHAT ABBREVIATED VERSION, WITH JUST WIDJOJO, BUT WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE BROADER ASEAN PARTICIPATION. THE FORMAT COULD INCLUDE PRESENTATIONS BY ONE OR TWO ASEAN SPOKESMAN (RELATIVELY INDIVIDUAL BRIEF PRESENTATIONS IN THE LATTER CASE).

3. FYI. THE DECISION TO PROPOSE DOING THIS ON TUESDAY RATHER THAN MONDAY WAS INFLUENCED BY THE LIKELIHOOD THAT WIDJOJO WILL HAVE SOME APPOINTMENTS IN WASHINGTON MONDAY MORNING AND COULD NOT GET TO NEW YORK IN TIME FOR LUNCH. ALL THREE ORGANIZATIONS AGREE THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO HAVE WIDJOJO AS AT LEAST ONE OF THE FEATURED GUESTS, I.E., SPEAKERS. SINCE BOTH RAJARATNAM AND VIRATA, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE ADDRESSED GROUPS IN NEW YORK RECENTLY, THEY BELIEVE WIDJOJO WOULD BE THE BEST DRAWING CARD. END FYI.

4. THIS PROPOSAL SOUNDS ATTRACTIVE. THERE WOULD BE THE PROBLEM THAT MINISTERS OR OTHER RANKING DELEGATES STAYING OVER FOR THIS AFFAIR WOULD HAVE NO PROGRAM FOR MONDAY. HOWEVER, WE ASSUME THEY COULD USE THE TIME TO ARRANGE SCHEDULES IN EITHER WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK TO CONDUCT BILATERAL BUSINESS. WE HAVE PROMISED TO TRY TO GIVE THE THREE GROUPS AN ANSWER BY TOMORROW WITH BEST INDICATION POSSIBLE OF WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE.

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5. WE INFORMED MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR ZAIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE ASEAN WASHINGTON COMMITTEE, OF THE ABOVE PROPOSAL TODAY. WE PRESUME THIS IS PROMPTING CABLES TO RESPECTIVE HOME GOVERNMENTS WHICH SHOULD HELP PRODUCE A RESPONSE. CHRISTOPHER

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